

# EDUCATION

ryoung@buckscountyherald.com



## Jamison fifth-graders named finalists in Trees Rock contest

A group of fifth-graders from Jamison Elementary School are among the finalists in Scotties' Trees Rock video contest.

The students are one of 10 finalists in the third- through fifth-grade category.

The grand prize winner in this division will receive \$10,000 for the school to use toward a sustainable project, such as tree plantings, outdoor classrooms, playgrounds, athletic fields, gardens and greenhouses. All kids who entered the contest were required to create a video up to three minutes long on the importance of trees — to themselves, their school and their community.

Students were encouraged to be as creative as possible in their entries. Entries from around the country were narrowed down by a panel of judges to the 10 best in

two grade categories.

Led by Jamison teacher and leader of the school's ecology club, Grubs Ecology, Jared Hottenstein and his students jumped into action to create a video. The students, led by their slogan, "Getting Dirty to Keep our School Clean," created a video depicting a poem that when read forward, speaks of doom and gloom for the environment. But the twist is, that the poem read backwards turns into a call to action to protect the environment.

When asked why the club chose to enter the video contest, Hottenstein's answer was simple, "We call it putting on our trifocals. Grubs Ecology has an amazing vision for empowering kids to impact their school, community, and world. Our vision is like a pair of eye glasses.

Everyone has heard of bifocals, but we have trifocals. We have 3 types of vision that has driven Grubs Ecology to be successful: near-sighted, far-sighted, and "ex-sighted".

Entering this contest was a way for us to raise our excitement levels and get our entire community talking and "ex-sighted" about the things Grubs Ecology is doing. It also allowed us to focus on some far-sighted goals that we've had on the backburner for years simply because we didn't have the funds to make them happen. We knew it was a long shot, but wanted to give it a try.

Winners will be chosen by voters across America who can watch the top videos and vote for their favorite through Feb. 6 on [scottiestreesrock.com](http://scottiestreesrock.com). Winners will be announced on Feb. 15.



Aaron Hammer and Ernie Nocito, director of development, Family Service Association of Bucks County.

## Third-grader aids homeless

Just before the holidays, 8-year-old Aaron Hammer of Fairless Hills was given an assignment in school to write a persuasive letter.

The third-grader took this opportunity to beg his parents for an experience that, in his words, would be the time of his life. When the letter made its way home among piles of homework and papers, Aaron's parents were astounded by their son's request:

*"Mom and Dad ... About the fresh lemonade stand, I have to do it. I've got a perfect plan. You can hold a tray of lemonade and we can go around the neighborhood. I can say: 'Would you like to help the homeless shelter by buying lemonade?' I really need to do it! I really, really, really want to do it. I really do. I'll do anything to earn for it. I want to help the homeless badly. I will even stop fighting with my sister, Kaylin. It will be the best time of my life."*

Most kids Aaron's age are asking for tangible things, so his

request really surprised his parents, Patti and Larry Hammer.

"Where did this come from?" they wondered. Aaron had never before mentioned the homeless shelter or the assignment.

Given the frigid temperatures this time of year, Aaron's parents didn't exactly agree to the lemonade stand, but they granted his wish to help the homeless. The Hammers asked friends and family members to donate to the Bucks County Emergency Homeless Shelter, a program of Family Service, promising fresh-baked cookies in return.

When Aaron stopped by the shelter to drop off his \$415 donation and 50 handmade scarves from his grandmother, he was beaming with pride — and so were his parents.

To learn more about the Bucks County Emergency Homeless Shelter, visit [fsabc.org/homeless-services](http://fsabc.org/homeless-services). To make a donation, contact Ernie Nocito, director of development, at [enocito@fsabc.org](mailto:enocito@fsabc.org) or 215-757-6916 x208.

## Rotary seeks award nominations

The Rotary Club of Doylestown is seeking nominations of Central Bucks High School students and adult honorees for its annual Four Way Test Awards.

The Rotary Club of Doylestown invites the community to nominate individuals that exemplify the Rotary's Four Way Test principles in their life, business, community and personal affairs. The Four Way Test asks four questions of the things we think, say or do: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better

friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

The adult awards will honor area residents who apply the Four Way Test principles to their lives and show a strong commitment to the community. Honorees will be chosen from various sectors including for-profit, nonprofit, health care and education. The high school awards will honor students from each Central Bucks High School (East, South and West). Student honorees are selected based on essays that show how each student applies

the Four Way Test principles in his or her life.

The Four Way Test award winners will be presented at the annual Four Way Test Awards Breakfast on April 29.

Nominations and student essays should be e-mailed to [LindaMcCrillis@gmail.com](mailto:LindaMcCrillis@gmail.com) or sent to Rotary Club of Doylestown, c/o Linda McCrillis, 51 Hillside Ave., Doylestown 18901, before Jan. 30.

For information and to download nomination forms, visit [doylestownrotary.org](http://doylestownrotary.org).

## Penn South students conduct blanket drive



Penn South Middle School Student Council members stand with blankets that were collected for the homeless in Philadelphia.

Before the holidays, the Penn South Middle School Student Council conducted a blanket drive on behalf of the homeless in Philadelphia.

The South Cares Blanket Drive collected more than 100 new and gently used blankets that will be keeping the less for-

tunate warm this winter.

Student Council also ran a canned goods drive prior to the Thanksgiving holiday on behalf of Pennridge FISH and organized a fundraiser to support Penn North student Nick Dion's in his battle against leukemia by paying a dollar to listen to their music plays

during an extended study hall session. It raised \$157.

They also used a similar fundraiser to support Salfid Rescue, a dog rescue based in Souderton that rescues animals from overcrowded shelters in the South. Approximately \$274 will be donated to that group.



## Dictionary donation

Lambertville, N.J., Elks Lodge used part of a \$2,000 ENF Gratitude Grant to donate dictionaries to 150 students at Gayman Elementary School. Pictured are Emma Cavallo and James Cavallo Sr., PDD, ENF chairman. Also at this time, an Elks Heritage Corner Kit was presented to be displayed in the school library. It was accepted by Principal Michael Testani. The remainder of the grant was distributed to six local non-profit groups to aid them in helping those in distress, and to help supply food baskets during the holidays.

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